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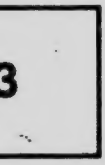
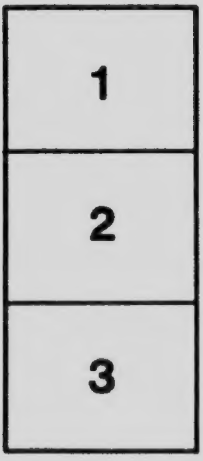
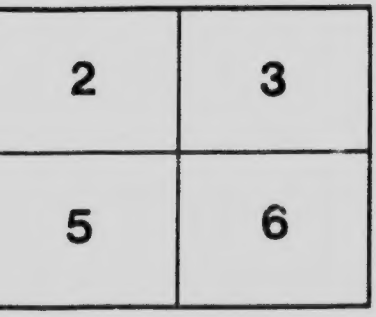






BEAUTIFUL HOMES

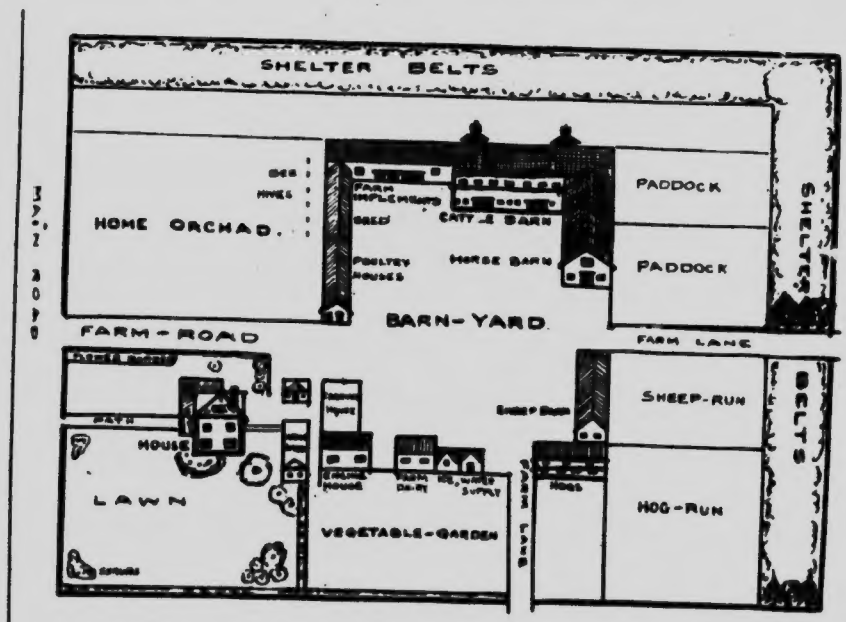
AND

HOW THE FARMER MAY MAKE THEM

BY

F. E. BUCK, B.S.A.,

Assistant to the Dominion Horticulturist.



A WELL-ARRANGED FARM-HOME.

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

J. H. GRISDALE, B.Agr.,
Director.

W. T. MACOUN,
Dominion Horticulturist.

EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 40.

(Revised January, 1916.)

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A nice lawn and a few flowers around your farm home will make the old place a loveable spot rooted deeply in the affections of your children. They will think of it with delight in after years even though they be scattered over the face of the earth.

Don't think, Mr. Farmer, that flowers and nature's beautiful things like greensward and trees are luxuries for people who have more leisure than you have.

Flowers, trees, shrubs, green grass are things of beauty that will repay you for any trifling initial cost in manifold ways. Use them, and in one or at most three years your home will look worth much more in actual cash value. Your attachment to the place and your pride in it will be greatly increased. The mental effect on members of your household will be distinct. You may gain a hobby which you may have to thank for inducing you to quit regular work earlier occasionally in order to indulge in a bit of real joyous work which will give you rich rewards.

Mr. Farmer you need a little reminder that your home can be made to look even more attractive than your cousin's, Mr. Townsman, can, if you will give this question of "more beautiful farm homes" a little of your careful attention, and the few hints given in this circular are such a reminder.

Write to the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa for more information when you need it. You will be surprised how interesting and fascinating a problem this matter of farm home improvement becomes once you start it in earnest.

What can you do in the Matter?

First, in the winter when time is less a consideration to you than it is in the spring, you can plan your garden work. Look at the plan given in this circular: it may suggest something to you. Spare an evening or two and put down on paper your buildings, etc., and figure out how you can improve the general appearance of your home surroundings. Can any little changes be made in the location of new buildings you have in mind? Can better approaches and surroundings be provided for the old ones? Can you not make some changes which will save your time and steps and please your wife?

Second, have you got your walks and driveways properly located? And have you a few nice shade trees near the house and buildings under which the men can rest at the noon hour and your family and friends enjoy at other times? Have you a nice lawn?

Figure these things out during the more leisurely days of winter. Lots of farmers are doing these things these days. Many have written to us for information. They are progressive farmers who have faith in their calling and wish to get out of it all they can both for themselves and their families.

Third, you will need to select a few packets of easily grown flower seeds, or make choice of a few shrubs and trees, etc. This you can do in the winter. The dealers will be glad to send you their catalogues and the lists in this circular will help you to make the choices. We have other lists which will be sent to you on application should you wish to go in for things on a more extensive scale.

What about Flower Seeds?

Sowing the seed is an important operation in starting the garden, but a farmer scarcely need be told how to do this. Should any one, however, need hints in this connection they may be found in a circular corresponding to this but written for townspeople.

There are two classes of flower seeds. The first comprises those which produce plants which, although they seldom blossom the same year as the seed is sown, yet will live and blossom for many years after they are once established. These are known as *Perennials*. The seed of such plants should be sown in the spring; the plants must

be allowed to grow for a few months until they are ready to transplant into some permanent position. A border six to twelve feet wide down by the side of a neat fence or a hedge is a good place in which to grow such flowers.

Then there are the *Annuals*, many of which *must* be grown for old acquaintance sake. The seed of annual flowers should be sown early in the spring and young plants transplanted about six weeks later. They grow very rapidly. They should be planted in with the perennials or in beds and odd corners of the lawn and garden. Amongst them are China Asters, Sweet Peas, Nasturtiums, which are splendid as cut flowers for the house.

What about Trees and Shrubs?

In addition to flowers, both annual and perennial, there are many beautiful flowering shrubs like the Mock Orange and the Lilacs, which should be seen around the farm home. Lastly, there are many splendid trees which add so much to the appearance of a home. Large trees like the Elm, Maple and Basswood will give shade, and others like the Flowering Crabapple, the Siberian Pea tree and Evergreen trees should be grown for both ornament and shade. As shelter and for windbreaks, evergreens also are most useful in winter.

Some Simple Rules to Remember.

When arranging the home surroundings on a new site, or when attempting alterations to improve the surroundings of an established home, first of all make a simple plan and when doing so it will help you to keep in mind a few simple rules such as the following:—

1. Arrange everything first of all from the standpoint of convenience.

2. Don't place barns and outbuildings too far from the house nor the house too far from the main road.

3. Remember that the house should always be the chief feature of the picture. Where barns and outbuildings are too prominent they may be partly screened by using shrubs and trees.

4. A good lawn in the front of the house is always a great help. The vegetable garden and home orchard should occupy positions at the side or rear of the house and lawn.

5. Roadways, paths and fences are all necessary conveniences, and when well cared for they may be made attractive as well as useful features of the home surroundings.

6. Hedges, trees, shrubs and windbreaks must be correctly located at the time of planting, because they cannot be moved successfully after a few years of growth.

7. Study the layout of a neighbour's farm and find out what mistakes to avoid and remember that a good arrangement seldom costs more than a poor one. Aim for convenience and beauty combined.

List of Easily Grown Flowers, Shrubs and Trees.

Annual Flowers:

Low growing sorts—California Poppy, Drummond Phlox, Mignonette, Pansy, Verbena.

Medium height varieties—China Asters, Pot Marigold, Petunias, Pin-cushion Flower, Snap Dragon, Ten-Week Stocks, Scarlet Sage, Zinnias.

Tall growing varieties—Cosmos, Everlasting Flower, Salpiglossis, Tobacco Plant.

All of these will flower during the summer from seed sown in the spring.

Perennial Flowers:

For spring and early summer bloom—Crocus, Narcissus, Tulips, Columbines, Forget-me-not, Iris, Bleeding-heart, Pæonies, Sweet Williams, Bellflowers, Pinks, Foxgloves, Delphiniums, Day Lilies, Poppies.

For summer bloom—Blanket Flower, Coreopsis, Chinese Bell Flower, Hollyhocks, Shasta Daisy, Lilies, Phloxes.

For late summer and autumn bloom—Late Phloxes, Japanese Lilies, Japanese Anemones, Rose Mallow, Monkshood, Gladiolus, Sunflower, Helenium.

Beautiful Shrubs:

Lilacs, Mock Orange, Sweet Scented Currant, Japanese Barberry, Van Houtte's Spirea, Japanese Roses, Siberian Pea-Tree, Honeysuckles, Hydrangea, Snowberry, Japanese Cypress, Irish Juniper, Japanese Yew.

Shade and Ornamental Trees:

Elm, Maple, Basswood, Red Oak, White Ash, Flowering Crab Apples, Mountain Ash, Cut-leaved Maple.

Climbing Vines for House and Porches:

Self-fastening Virginian Creeper, Dutchman's Pipe Vine, Climbing Bitter-Sweet, Clematis.

Annual Climbers—Sweet Peas, Nasturtiums, Japanese Morning Glories, Cup and Saucer Vine.

Trees and Shrubs for the Prairie Provinces.

For Shelter Belts:

White Spruce, Black Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Jack Pine, Scotch Pine, Austrian Pine, Manitoba Maple, Green Ash, Laurel-leaved Willow, Cottonwood, Paper Birch, Balsam Poplar, Russian Poplar, Tamarack, and in southern parts, Basswood and Soft Maple.

Some Hardy Shrubs:

Siberian Pea-tree, Lilacs (several species), Bush Honeysuckles, Spiræas, High Bush Cranberry, Saskatoon berry, Missouri or Golden Currant, Cotoneaster, Siberian Dogwood, Roses, Japanese and Native.

For full lists see Central Experimental Farm reports and bulletins.

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